that it is true state of affairs, may I know whether any exemption was given in the present appointment.

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* I have answered it already.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* May I know Sir, whether any exemption have been granted in the matter of chief ministerial officers of any other department, recently? Here it is said that the chief ministerial officer has been given exemption for the purpose of appointment. May I know whether there have been any other instances of this nature in any other departments during the last one year or so.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* That point is not clear whether he must be a law-graduate or not.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan *(Ezhuvas-Talappalli):* The House can take it from me that there was such an order.

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* The doubt is there, whether that order refers to only to initial recruitment or whether it refers to others also. Anyhow there is a point of doubt. And so far as that point has not been settled we cannot say that this has been irregular. That is why I said "I want notice".

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Suppose the Hon'ble Secretary is convinced that the law is otherwise, will the Government be pleased to revert him to his former post?

Khan Sahib Y. Muhammad Roshan Sahib Bahadur *(Commissioner of Police):* The present appointment is in order.

Deputy President: The question time is over.

THE COCHIN CHRISTIAN SUCCESSION ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Regarding the motion standing in my name I wish to make a statement. The Hon'ble Members Mr. Iyyunni and Mr. A. L. Antony want to have further consultations. I therefore request that the bill may be taken up in the Vrischigam session. Therefore I don't move.

THE COCHIN CHRISTIAN CIVIL MARRIAGE ACT REPEAL BILL

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Sir, The reasons given by me in the speech which was not completed last time are sufficient argument that this Act does not deserve a place in the Statute Book of any State and that this Act must be repealed.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* On a point of information, Sir. Shall we know as to whether Act 20/1110 is not for the celebration of marriages between different communites.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* Yes.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Sir, I oppose this motion. If I remember rightly the occasion for the Cochin Christian Civil Marriage Act was the refusal by priests to solemnise certain marriages. I think it was the Narakkal Church affair. The parishners for some reason or other revolted against the authority of the priests and the priests refused to solemnise any marriage. While I was a lawyer a typical case came before me. A poor father came before me and said that I must file a suit for damages against the Bishop of Cochin because a priest refused to solemnise the marriage of his daughter aged 19 because he owed some money to a particular church in a different transaction altogether. It seems he conducted a kuri and the church had taken a ticket in the kuri and some money was due to the church. The church could not realise it. They thought that he had secreted his property in somebody's name. After making all the arrangements he took the girl to the church but the priest refused to solemnise the marriage. Therefore, it becomes practically a tyranny of the priesthood. If people want to escape from that tyranny they should have the freedom to do so. After all the law is made for man and not man made for law. If I remember rightly it was on account of the agitation of the Christians themselves that this Act was passed. My only doubt was whether Act 21/10 will enable Christians to solemnise marriages without the aid of church. I am supported by the authority of the Advocate-General. It was my view that it takes in cases like Christians marrying Nayars, Nayars marrying Christians, Muhammadans marrying Christians and so on. It may not apply to this particular case. Therefore there is real danger in repealing this Act.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi):* Sir, I oppose this motion. The other day when I listened to my friend Mr. Iyyu's speech when he was introducing this bill, I thought he has brought this Bill as a saviour of catholicism. But so far as I am concerned, I know almost all the catholic Bishops personally. No one of them has told me of the necessity of repealing this Bill. It is a dead law. There may be some stray cases. Let them take advantage of it. That is my preliminary observation.

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